

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-19 are pending. Claims 1-16 and 18-19 have been examined and rejected.

Item 1 indicates that the action is final.

Items 2 and 3 reject claims 1-16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,863 to Smiley *et al.*, "Smiley" hereinafter.

Item 4 responds to the arguments made in the last amendment.

To advance prosecution, all rejections will be treated as though applied to the claims as amended. Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Claim Amendments

The last Amendment, specifying more clearly the mechanism of the call-back request, overcame the rejections based on U.S. Patent No. 5,946,386 to Rogers *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,661,790 to Hsu, and U.S. Patent No. 5,740,229 to Hanson *et al.* The Office Action states, in the "Response to Arguments" section, "Examiner agrees with Applicant that the call back in Smiley is not implemented immediately However, with respect to new amended claims, Examiner could not find anywhere in the recited pending claims that requires the call back call has to be made immediately...." and sustains the rejections over Smiley.

The claims have accordingly been amended to specify that the call back must be made immediately. Applicants thus assert that all rejections have been overcome.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that their invention as claimed is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Therefore, it is submitted that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to allowance and issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-Up Version of the Claims

1. (Four Times Amended) A method for providing an automated call connection system comprising the steps of:

a first user contacting a call server;

the first user requesting the server to deliver a call back request to a second

5 user;

the server prompting the second user whether to call the first user back;

the second user optionally signaling acceptance of the call back request to the server; and

if the second user signals to accept the call back request, the server immediately
10 and automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user.

11. (Four Times Amended) A system for providing an automated call connection comprising:

a first user input device for initiating and sending a call back request;

a second user output device for receiving the call back request; and

5 a server for transferring the call back request from the first user output device to the second user output device and for prompting the second user whether to call back the first user, and, if the second user signals to the network connection to return the call, for immediately and automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user.